

The Metropolitan Opera



The Met: Live in HD **PRESS FACT SHEET 2012–13**

The Met: Live in HD Overview

The Met: Live in HD is the Metropolitan Opera's Peabody and Emmy Award-winning series of opera performances transmitted live from the stage of the Met into movie theaters worldwide. Ten to twelve high-definition cameras, including a robotic camera that tracks the action along the edge of the stage, are used to relay the live performances. Additional handheld cameras and a steadycam are backstage to provide a fishbowl view of the behind-the-scene action, from divas in their dressing rooms to stagehands maneuvering tons of scenery between acts. *The Met: Live in HD* annually produces more content (twelve shows in the upcoming 2012–13 season) and is seen by more people (approximately 3,000,000) in more theaters (1,900) and more countries (60) than any other alternative cinema content. Since the Met's series launched in 2006 as one of the movie industry's first modern alternative cinema content providers, more than 10 million tickets have been sold.

Now entering its seventh season, *The Met: Live in HD* is seen in 60 countries in just about every important world capital from Paris to Cairo, as well as in towns and villages sprinkled across every continent, with the sole exception of Antarctica. Ecuador, Guatemala, Jamaica, India, Madagascar, and Qatar are new countries joining the Met's HD distribution network for the first time this season.

The Met utilizes eight satellites to transmit its live matinee performances, typically beginning at 1pm ET in New York, across 12 different time zones, from the west coast of North America (10am) to Moscow (10pm). The programs are seen on a delayed basis in Asia, Australia, and New Zealand due to the extreme time difference in those regions. On-screen subtitles in seven languages (English, French, German, Italian, Portuguese, Russian, and Spanish) are encoded within the live satellite feeds. Subtitled versions in Chinese, Japanese, and Korean are made later for delayed screenings in those countries.

Met stars serve as guest hosts for the HD transmissions. Joyce DiDonato, Renée Fleming, Susan Graham, Eric Owens, Sondra Radvanovsky, and Deborah Voigt will be hosting this season, providing introductions and synopses, and conducting live interviews with cast, crew, and production teams.

The 2012–13 series of 12 live opera transmissions features some of opera's biggest stars. The HD season begins on Saturday, October 13, with the Met's new production of Donizetti's *L'Elisir d'Amore*, starring Anna Netrebko (see below for a complete schedule).

The Met: Live in HD Expansion

Since its launch in the 2006–07 season, *The Met: Live in HD* has continually expanded, with dozens of countries and new venues being added every year. The inaugural live HD transmission, of Mozart's *The Magic Flute*, took place in December 2006 and was seen live in 98 theaters in four countries. By the end of that season, the transmissions were shown on 480 screens in eight countries.

During the 2011–12 season, the series was shown in more than 1,700 theaters in 54 countries. Close to three million *Live in HD* tickets were sold worldwide for the 11 transmissions, quadrupling the Met's paying audience (approximately 700,000 people attend performances in the opera house in a Met season).

The Met: Live in HD Countries and Venues

U.S. (all 50 states plus the territories of Puerto Rico and St. Thomas in the U.S. Virgin Islands)

Abu Dhabi, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Belgium, Bermuda, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador (new), Egypt, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala (new), Hong Kong, Hungary, Iceland, India (new), Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica (new), Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar (new), Malta, Mexico, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Qatar (new), Republic of Korea, Romania, Russia, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, Uruguay

The geographical breakdown of the approximately 1,900 theaters for the 2012–13 season is as follows: 760 in the U.S.

159 in Germany and Austria (an increase of more than 30 theaters from last season)

141 in Canada

130 in France, Switzerland, and Morocco

128 in the UK (an increase of more than 40 theaters from last season)

121 in Sweden (an increase of 40 theaters from last season)

460+ in the rest of the world

The largest single venue across the network is the Auditorio Nacional in Mexico City, with a seating capacity of more than 6,000. The smallest in the U.S. is the 100-seat Time & Space, Limited in Hudson, New York.

The Met: Live in HD Awards

Emmy Award (September 2010): An Emmy was awarded for “Outstanding Technical Direction, Camerawork, Video Control for a Miniseries, Movie or a Special” (*The Met: Live in HD* transmission of *Don Pasquale*).

Emmy Award (January 2009): A special Emmy was presented for “advancing technology through ongoing, live, global transmission of high-definition programming to movie theaters.”

Peabody Award (2009): Created in 1941 to recognize the most outstanding achievements in broadcasting, the Peabody Awards honored the Met for the HD series's “vividly designed, smartly annotated productions of *Hansel and Gretel*, *Doctor Atomic*, *Peter Grimes* and other operas; the Met used state-of-the-art digital technology to reinvent presentation of a classic art form.”

IBC International Honour for Excellence (September 2009): The award was presented for outstanding contribution to the creative, commercial, or technical advance of the electronic media industry, on a global scale.

The Met: Live in HD Quick Statistics

Season	Number of transmissions	Total no. of theaters worldwide, live	Total no. of U.S. theaters	Total no. of countries	Total Attendance
2006–07	6	248	60	8	325,000
2007–08	8	632	340	19	935,000
2008–09	11	868	500	35	1,800,000
2009–10	9	1,200	500	43	2,400,000
2010–11	12	1,500	620	47	2,600,000+
2011–12	11	1,700	752	54	2,950,000 est.
2012–13	12	1,900	760	60	

Total *Live in HD* ticket sales: More than ten million since the start of the series

Total *Live in HD* transmissions: 57 since start of series

The Met: Live in HD 2012-13 Operas and Casting

October 13 – L’ELISIR D’AMORE (Donizetti) – *New Production*

Benini; Netrebko, Polenzani, Kwiecien, Maestri

October 27 – OTELLO (Verdi)

Bychkov; Fleming, Botha, Fabiano, Sruckmann, Morris

November 10 – THE TEMPEST (Adès) – *New Production*

Adès; Luna, Leonard, Davies, Shrader, Oke, Burden, Spence, Keenlyside

December 1 – LA CLEMENZA DI TITO (Mozart)

Bicket; Crowe, Frittoli, Garanca, Lindsey, Filianoti, Gradus

December 8 – UN BALLO IN MASCHERA (Verdi) – *New Production*

Luisi; Radvanovsky, Kim, Blythe, Álvarez, Hvorostovsky

December 15 – AIDA (Verdi)

Luisi; Monastyrska, Borodina, Alagna, Gagnidze, Kocán

January 5 – LES TROYENS (Berlioz) SWEETE

Luisi; Voigt, Graham, Cargill, Giordan, Cutler, Croft, Youn

January 19 – MARIA STUARDA (Donizetti) – *New Production*

Benini; van den Heever, DiDonato, Meli, Hopkins, Rose

February 16 – RIGOLETTO (Verdi) – *New Production*

Mariotti; Damrau, Volkova, Beczala, Lucic, Kocán

March 2 – PARSIFAL (Wagner) – *New Production*

Gatti; Dalayman, Kaufmann, Mattei, Nikitin, Pape

March 16 – FRANCESCA DA RIMINI (Zandonai)

Armiliato; Westbroek, Giordani, Brubaker, Delavan

April 27 – GIULIO CESARE (Handel) – *New Production*

Bicket; Dessay, Coote, Bardon, Daniels, Dumaux, Loconsolo

###